

State of California Syphilis Elimination Surveillance Data

Data through June 30, 2001

California Department of Health Services
Division of Communicable Disease Control
STD Control Branch

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Key Observations:

- During the first half of 2001, 215 primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases were reported in California, an increase of 25.0% (N=172) from the first half of 2000 and an increase of 76.2% (N=122 cases) from the first half of 1999.
- Overall, 64% (39/61) of California health jurisdictions reported no P&S syphilis in the first half of 2001. Of the jurisdictions that reported cases, 12 reported only 1 or 2 cases.
- The majority of cases were reported from four jurisdictions, Los Angeles (N=78, rate=0.86 per 100,000), San Francisco (N=52, rate=6.60), Orange County (N=24, rate=0.83), and San Diego (N=11, rate=0.39).
- More than two-thirds (67%) of P&S syphilis cases were among men who have sex with men (MSM), an increase from the first half of 2000 (59%) and a large increase from the first half of 1999 (29%).
- Overall, nearly 60% of reported P&S cases were from the Southern California region. Cases were primarily MSM (67%), Hispanic (41%), and 40 years of age or greater (27%).
- The Bay Area region had an 84% increase in the number of reported P&S syphilis from the first half of 2000, with cases being primarily MSM (83%), white (59%), and 40 years of age or greater (47%). All but one of the 70 cases were male.
- In the Central California region, heterosexual contact remains the primary route of transmission of P&S syphilis (all 10 cases). Nine (90%) of cases in this region were among non-white populations.
- The Northern California region reported 6 P&S syphilis cases in the first half of 2001, which exceeds its total for all of 2000 (N=5).

Table 1: Syphilis Elimination Indicators for California through 6/30/2001

Morbidity Trend	1999 first half	1999 second half	2000 first half	2000 second half	2001 first half
P&S Cases	122	142	172	158	215
Reported P&S Syphilis Rate (per 100,000) ¹	0.36	0.42	0.50	0.46	0.61
% of syphilis-free health jurisdictions	73.8%	63.9%	67.2%	70.5%	63.9%
# of counties accounting for 75% of new cases	6	7	4	6	4 ³
African-American:White rate ratio ¹	8:1	11:1	4:1	3.5:1	4:1
Male:Female rate ratio ¹	2.5:1	3:1	7:1	5:1	7.5:1
% MSM ²	28.6%	22.1%	58.9%	52.5%	67.3%

¹ Population based on the Department of Finance estimates from December 1998

² Among those of known sexual orientation

³ Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, San Diego

Introduction

This document includes the latest data on primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis in California. The California STD Control Branch presents these data regularly to provide up-to-date data on the epidemiologic profile of syphilis in the state of California as a whole and regionally. This document includes analyses of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases reported from January 1, 1999 through June 30, 2001 by half-year intervals. Data from the California Project Area, Los Angeles, and San Francisco are presented. These data are provisional.

If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please contact either Terrence Lo (510-883-6653) or Michael Samuel (510-540-2311) at the California STD Control Branch, Epidemiology and Surveillance Section or email syphilis@dhs.ca.gov.

Overview

In California, 215 primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases were reported during the first half of 2001 (Table 1). This represents a 25% (N=215) increase in cases in the first half of 2001 from the first half of 2000 and a 76% (N=122) increase from the first half of 1999 (Table 2). The P&S syphilis rate was 0.61 (per 100,000), in comparison with 0.50 in the first half of 2000 and 0.36 in the first half of 1999 (Table 1). Thirty-six percent (22/61) of the health jurisdictions in California reported at least one P&S syphilis case, with 4 jurisdictions, Los Angeles (N=78), San Francisco (N=52), Orange County (N=24), and San Diego (N=11) contributing over 75% of new cases. In the first half of 2001, P&S cases were primarily White (40.9%), male (88.4%), and 40 years of age or older (37.4%) as reported in Table 1.

Reported primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis rates by race/ethnicity are shown in half-year intervals in Figure 1. During the first half of 2001, African-Americans had the highest P&S syphilis rate at 1.92 (per 100,000) followed by Hispanics at 0.64, Whites at 0.50, and Asians/Native Americans/Alaskans at 0.21. All ethnic groups had an increase in P&S syphilis cases (Figure 1, Table 2) from the first half of 2000.

Figure 1: Reported P&S syphilis rates (per 100,000 population) by race/ethnicity over half-year intervals, California, 1999 to first half 2001

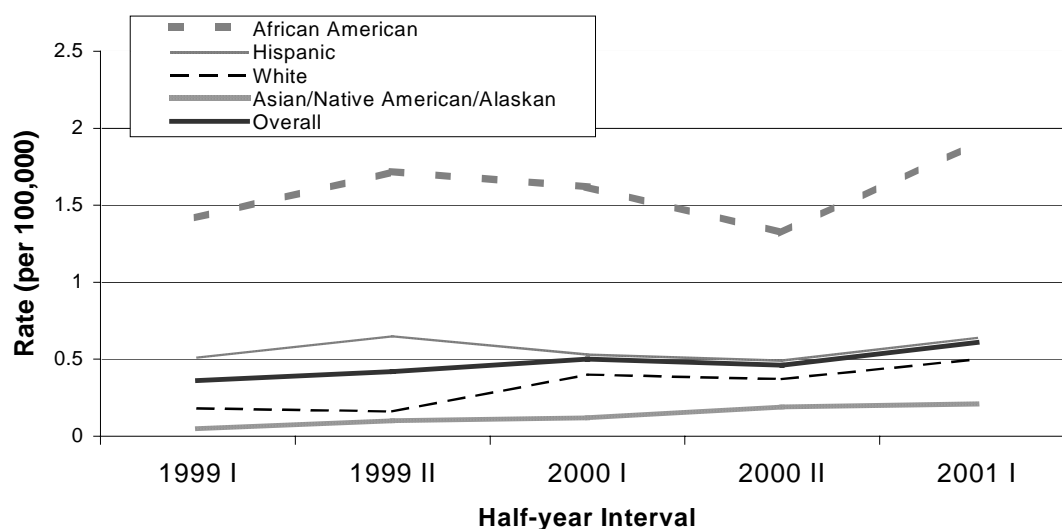


Table 2: Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, California by half-year intervals 1999-2001

Characteristic	1999 first half n (%) N=122	1999 second half n (%) N=142	2000 first half n (%) N=172	2000 second half n (%) N=158	2001 first half n (%) N=215
Stage					
Primary	56 (45.9%)	50 (35.2%)	53 (30.8%)	47 (29.8%)	79 (36.7%)
Secondary	66 (54.1%)	92 (64.8%)	119 (69.2%)	111 (70.2%)	136 (63.3%)
Gender					
M	86 (70.5%)	103 (72.5%)	149 (86.6%)	130 (82.3%)	190 (88.4%)
F	36 (29.5%)	39 (27.5%)	23 (13.4%)	28 (17.7%)	25 (11.6%)
Age					
<20	7 (5.7%)	10 (7.0%)	4 (2.3%)	5 (3.2%)	10 (4.5%)
20-24	17 (13.9%)	18 (12.7%)	13 (7.5%)	18 (11.4%)	19 (8.8%)
25-29	22 (18.0%)	22 (15.5%)	20 (11.6%)	20 (12.7%)	33 (15.3%)
30-34	23 (18.9%)	31 (21.8%)	39 (22.7%)	31 (19.6%)	40 (18.6%)
35-39	17 (13.9%)	22 (15.5%)	41 (23.8%)	31 (19.6%)	38 (17.7%)
40-44	14 (11.5%)	16 (11.3%)	23 (13.4%)	19 (12.0%)	33 (16.7%)
45-49	14 (11.5%)	13 (9.2%)	17 (9.9%)	13 (8.2%)	23 (11.6%)
50+	8 (6.6%)	10 (7.0%)	15 (8.7%)	21 (13.3%)	18 (9.1%)
Race					
White	32 (26.7%)	27 (19.6%)	70 (41.2%)	64 (41.0%)	88 (40.9%)
Hispanic	53 (44.2%)	67 (48.5%)	57 (33.5%)	53 (34.0%)	70 (32.6%)
African-American	33 (27.5%)	40 (29.0%)	38 (22.3%)	31 (19.9%)	45 (20.9%)
Asian/Native American	2 (1.7%)	4 (2.9%)	5 (2.9%)	8 (5.1%)	9 (4.2%)
Sexual Orientation^{1,2}					
Heterosexual Male	40 (44.0%)	51 (49.0%)	41 (27.1%)	41 (29.1%)	37 (22.0%)
MSM	26 (28.6%)	23 (22.1%)	89 (58.9%)	74 (52.5%)	113 (67.3%)
Heterosexual Female	24 (26.4%)	28 (26.9%)	18 (11.9%)	20 (14.2%)	16 (9.5%)
WSW	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.0%)	0	4 (2.8%)	2 (1.2%)
Transgender	0	1 (1.0%)	3 (2.0%)	2 (1.4%)	0
Unknown ³	31 (25.4%)	38 (26.8%)	21 (12.2%)	17 (10.8%)	22 (11.6%)
Diagnosed at					
STD Clinic	38 (31.2%)	38 (26.8%)	29 (16.9%)	40 (25.3%)	55 (27.8%)
Correctional Facility	15 (12.3%)	14 (9.9%)	7 (4.1%)	10 (6.3%)	11 (5.6%)
Family Planning	1 (0.8%)	1 (0.7%)	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.3%)	1 (0.5%)
EIP/HIV Care Facilities	1 (0.8%)	4 (2.8%)	21 (12.2%)	9 (5.7%)	23 (11.6%)
Other Public Clinics	8 (6.6%)	11 (7.8%)	23 (13.4%)	15 (9.5%)	17 (7.1%)
Other Source	10 (8.2%)	12 (8.5%)	16 (9.3%)	11 (7.0%)	12 (6.1%)
Medical Provider ⁵	49 (40.2%)	62 (43.7%)	76 (44.2%)	71 (44.9%)	82 (41.4%)
HIV +	3 (6.1%)	4 (6.5%)	19 (23.5%)	16 (21.6%)	33 (38.8%)
HIV -	1 (2.0%)	3 (4.8%)	34 (42.0%)	42 (56.8%)	34 (40.0%)
unknown	45 (91.8%)	55 (88.7%)	28 (34.6%)	16 (21.6%)	18 (21.2%)
Reports Anonymous Sex^{1,2,4}	---	---	57 (55.3%)	58 (60.4%)	87 (64.4%)
Reports Sex Work^{1,2,4}	---	---	6 (6.2%)	14 (12.2%)	14 (9.0%)
Reports Sex with Sex Worker^{1,2,4}	---	---	21 (20.6%)	24 (21.0%)	19 (12.1%)
HIV Status^{1,2,4}					
+	---	---	50 (40.3%)	33 (28.0%)	65 (46.4%)
-	---	---	74 (59.7%)	85 (72.0%)	75 (53.6%)
Unknown ³	---	---	48 (27.9%)	40 (25.3%)	50 (26.3%)
Drug Use^{1,2}					
Crack ⁴	---	---	36 (31.3%)	40 (31.5%)	55 (33.7%)
Heroin ⁴	---	---	6 (16.7%)	14 (35.0%)	10 (18.2%)
Cocaine ⁴	---	---	2 (5.6%)	3 (7.5%)	1 (1.8%)
Methamphetamines ⁴	---	---	10 (27.8%)	9 (22.5%)	12 (21.8%)
	---	---	16 (44.4%)	16 (40.0%)	21 (38.2%)
Currently Incarcerated^{1,2,4}	---	---	7 (5.2%)	11 (8.9%)	10 (7.3%)
Met Partners at Bathhouse^{1,4,6}	---	---	20 (11.6%)	15 (9.4%)	24 (11.1%)
Met Partners Online^{1,4,6}	---	---	9 (5.2%)	10 (6.3%)	15 (7.0%)
Condom Used at Last Sex^{1,2,4}	---	---	23 (29.5%)	17 (18.9%)	22 (20.9%)

¹ Risk factor data for LA County not available for N=25 for the first half of 2001.

² Calculated percent excludes Unknown.

³ Calculated percent of total.

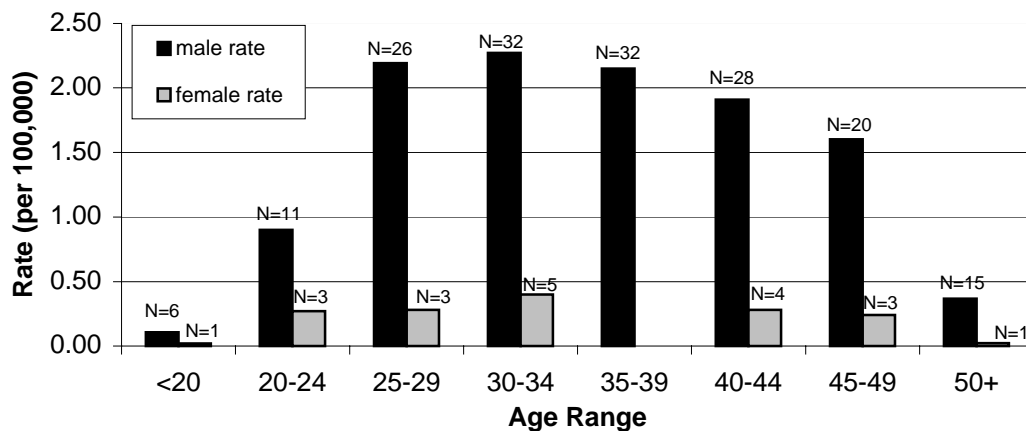
⁴ Data for 1999 not reliable.

⁵ Included sources from private physicians, HMOs, inpatient hospitals, OB hospitals, emergency rooms, and student health services

⁶ Percentages are a minimum estimate since responses of "no" and "unknown" are indistinguishable during data collection

In the first half of 2001, the male:female P&S syphilis rate ratio was 7.5:1, a slight increase from the first half of 2000 (7:1) and three times the ratio reported in the first half of 1999 (2.5:1). This increase in the proportion of male cases reported in California was a result of the increases of P&S syphilis among MSM that began in 2000. Figure 2 shows age-specific rates by gender for reported P&S cases in the first half of 2001. The highest rates occurred in those between the ages of 25 to 39 for men and 20 to 34 for women. Cases 40 years and older contributed 40% among females and 37% among males. Overall, 55.1% P&S cases were 35 years of age or older, in comparison with 55.8% in the first half of 2000 and 43.5% in the first half of 1999 (Table 1).

Figure 2: Age specific rates by gender for P&S cases, California, first half 2001



Among cases that reported their sexual orientation, more than two-thirds (67.5%) were men who have sex with men (MSM) during the first half of 2001. The percentage of P&S cases that were MSM has remained above 50% since 2000 (Figure 3). Of particular concern are the HIV coinfection rates among MSM P&S syphilis cases. Figure 4 shows the percentage of MSM syphilis cases self-reporting HIV coinfection from 2000 through the first half of 2001 (HIV status data from 1999 is unreliable). In the first half of 2001, over half (54.9%) of MSM cases reported being HIV positive (Figure 4).

Figure 3: P&S syphilis cases by MSM sexual orientation status in California, 1999 to early 2001 by half-year intervals

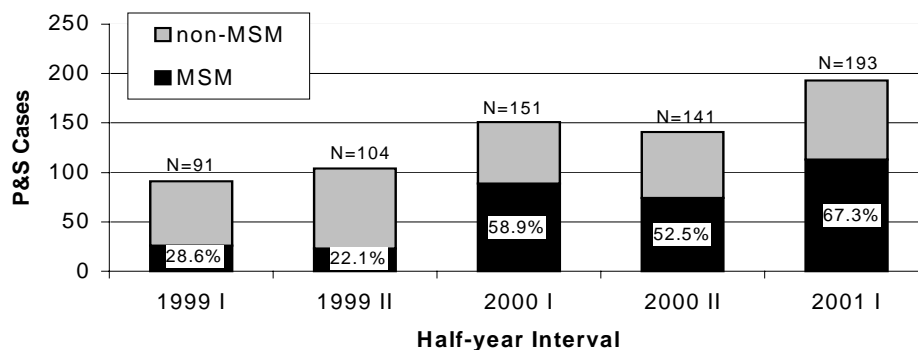
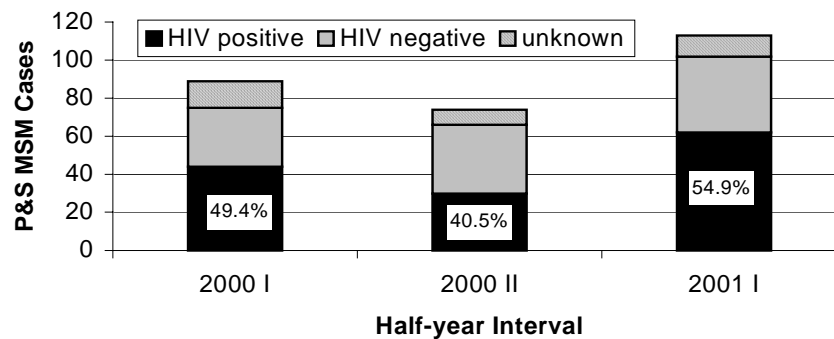


Figure 4: MSM P&S syphilis cases by self-reported HIV status in California, 2000 to the first half of 2001 by half-year intervals



Over the past 2 years, bathhouses have been identified as a venue reported by syphilis cases in California. In the first half of 2001, 11.1% (N=24) of P&S syphilis cases reported meeting sexual partners in bathhouses, similar to 11.6% (N=20) in the first half of 2000 (Table 2). Other risk factors reported by P&S syphilis cases in the first half of 2001 were having anonymous sex partners (64.4%), having sex with sex workers (12.1%), sex work (9.0%), and meeting partners over the internet (7.0%) (Table 1). A third (N=55) of P&S cases reported illicit drug use with methamphetamines (38.2%) being the most common.

Regional Analysis: Northern California

(Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba)

Table 3 summarizes the P&S syphilis cases reported during half-year intervals from 1999 through the first half of 2001 in the Northern California region. Six cases were reported in first half of 2001, exceeding the 5 cases reported in all of 2000, but less than the 7 cases reported in the first half of 1999. Five of the six cases were 30 years of age or older. To protect confidentiality of cases, jurisdictions for the Northern region are not presented.

Table 3: Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients Northern Region by half-year intervals 1999-2001

Characteristic	1999 first half n (%) N=7		1999 second half n (%) N=15		2000 first half n (%) N=2		2000 second half n (%) N=3		2001 first half n (%) N=6	
Stage										
Primary	4	57.1%	7	46.7%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
Secondary	3	42.9%	8	53.3%	1	50.0%	3	100.0%	5	83.3%
Gender										
M	3	42.9%	9	60.0%	1	50.0%	2	66.7%	4	66.7%
F	4	57.1%	6	40.0%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	2	33.3%
Age										
<20	2	28.6%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
20-24	4	57.1%	2	13.3%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	1	16.7%
25-29	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
30-34	1	14.3%	5	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
35-39	0	0.0%	3	20.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
40-44	0	0.0%	3	20.0%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%
45-49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
50+	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	2	33.3%
Race										
White	0	0.0%	6	40.0%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	3	60.0%
Hispanic	5	83.3%	6	40.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	1	20.0%
African-American	1	16.7%	3	20.0%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	1	20.0%
Asian/Native American	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sexual Orientation¹										
Heterosexual Male	3	42.9%	7	63.6%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	2	40.0%
MSM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%
Heterosexual Female	4	57.1%	4	36.4%	1	50.0%	2	66.7%	1	20.0%
WSW	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%
Transgender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unknown ²	0	0.0%	4	26.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
Diagnosed at										
STD Clinic	2	28.6%	9	60.0%	1	50.0%	0	0%	1	16.7%
Correctional Facility	1	14.3%	1	6.7%	0	0%	1	33.3%	0	0%
Family Planning	1	14.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
EIP/HIV Care Facilities	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	16.7%
Other Public Clinics	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	33.3%	1	16.7%
Other Source	1	14.3%	1	6.7%	0	0%	0	0%	1	16.7%
Medical Provider ⁵	2	28.6%	4	26.7%	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	2	33.3%
HIV +	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50.0%
HIV -	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Unknown	2	100%	4	100%	0	0%	0	0%	1	50.0%
Reports Anonymous Sex^{1,4}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	2	33.3%
Reports Sex Work^{1,4}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
Reports Sex with Sex Worker^{1,4}	---	---	---	---	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
HIV Status^{1,3}										
+	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%
-	---	---	---	---	1	100.0%	2	100.0%	2	100.0%
Unknown ²	---	---	---	---	1	50.0%	1	33.3%	3	50.0%
Drug Use^{1,3}										
Crack ³	---	---	---	---	0	50.0%	1	40.0%	1	50.0%
Heroin ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	100%	1	100%
Cocaine ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Methamphetamines ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100%
Currently Incarcerated^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	33.0%	0	0.0%
Met Partners at Bathhouse^{3,4}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	16.7%
Met Partners Online^{3,4}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Condom Used at Last Sex^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%

¹ Calculated percent excludes Unknown.

² Calculated percent of total.

³ Data for 1999 not reliable.

⁴ Percentages are a minimum estimate since responses of "no" and "unknown" are indistinguishable during data collection

⁵ Included sources from private physicians, HMOs, inpatient hospitals, OB hospitals, emergency rooms, and student health services

Regional Analysis: Bay Area

(Alameda, Berkeley, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma)

Table 4 summarizes the P&S syphilis cases reported during half-year intervals from 1999 through the first half of 2001 in the Bay Area region. Seventy P&S syphilis cases were reported during the first half of 2001, an 84% increase from the 38 cases reported during the first half of 2000 and a 400% increase from the 14 reported in the first half of 1999.

During the first half of 2001, 98% (69/70) of cases were male, a higher proportion than the first half of 2000 (90%) and the first half of 1999 (64%). This can be attributed to an increase in P&S syphilis cases among men who have sex with men (MSM). Among cases of known sexual orientation, 52 (83%) were MSM, which is a 148% increase from the 21 cases reported during the first half of 2000 and a 1200% increase from the 4 cases in the first half of 1999. Cases were mainly white (58.8%). Eighty-seven percent of cases occurred in those at least 30 years of age, an increase from 81.6% reported in the first half of 2000 and from 50% reported in the first half of 1999. Nearly half (47.1%) were 40 years or older. Over half (52%) of P&S cases self-reported being HIV seropositive. This proportion is higher than the first half (27%) and second half (32%) of 2000. Self reported HIV serostatus was not reliable in 1999.

During the first half of 2001, 74.2% (N=52) of reported cases from this region were from San Francisco, similar to the 78.9% (N=30) reported during the first half of 2000. Alameda contributed 9 (12.9%) cases. Of cases younger than 30 years of age in the Bay Area region, 8 of the 9 resided in San Francisco. Among those reporting sexual orientation, 85.1% (N=40) were MSM. In San Francisco, other risk factors reported by syphilis cases included bathhouses (15.7%) and illicit drug use (41.7%). Although some data are missing, all 7 cases that reported meeting partners over the internet were MSM and resided in San Francisco during the first half of 2001.

Table 4: Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients Bay Area Region by half-year intervals 1999-2001

Characteristic	1999 first half ⁵ n (%) N=14		1999 second half ⁵ n (%) N=13		2000 first half n (%) N=38		2000 second half n (%) N=37		2001 first half n (%) N=70	
Stage										
Primary	---	---	---	---	13	34.2%	10	27.0%	26	37.1%
Secondary	---	---	---	---	25	65.8%	27	73.0%	44	62.9%
Jurisdiction³										
San Francisco	---	---	---	---	30	78.9%	24	64.9%	52	74.2%
Alameda	7	50.0%	1	7.7%	3	8.6%	8	21.6%	9	12.9%
Other Bay Area (N=8)	7	50.0%	12	92.3%	5	13.2%	5	13.5%	9	12.9%
Gender										
M	---	---	---	---	34	89.5%	31	83.8%	69	98.6%
F	---	---	---	---	4	10.5%	6	16.2%	1	1.4%
Age										
<20	---	---	---	---	1	2.6%	2	5.4%	0	0.0%
20-24	---	---	---	---	2	5.3%	2	5.4%	1	1.4%
25-29	---	---	---	---	4	10.5%	7	18.9%	8	11.4%
30-34	---	---	---	---	11	28.9%	8	21.6%	12	17.1%
35-39	---	---	---	---	8	21.1%	7	18.9%	16	22.9%
40-44	---	---	---	---	5	13.2%	3	8.1%	19	26.8%
45-49	---	---	---	---	2	5.3%	2	5.4%	7	9.9%
50+	---	---	---	---	5	13.2%	6	16.2%	8	11.3%
Race										
White	---	---	---	---	23	60.5%	17	47.2%	40	58.8%
Hispanic	---	---	---	---	7	18.4%	8	22.2%	11	16.2%
African-American	---	---	---	---	6	15.8%	5	13.9%	14	20.6%
Asian/Native American	---	---	---	---	2	5.3%	6	16.7%	3	4.4%
Sexual Orientation¹										
Heterosexual Male	---	---	---	---	8	25.0%	5	15.2%	10	15.9%
MSM	---	---	---	---	21	65.6%	22	66.7%	52	82.5%
Heterosexual Female	---	---	---	---	3	9.4%	5	15.2%	1	1.6%
WSW	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	3.0%	0	0.0%
Transgender	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unknown ²	---	---	---	---	6	15.8%	4	10.8%	7	10.0%
Diagnosed at										
STD Clinic	---	---	---	---	9	23.7%	11	29.7%	29	40.9%
Correctional Facility	---	---	---	---	1	2.6%	1	2.7%	2	2.8%
Family Planning	---	---	---	---	0	0%	1	2.7%	0	0%
EIP/HIV Care Facilities	---	---	---	---	2	5.3%	3	8.1%	2	2.8%
Other Public Clinics	---	---	---	---	15	39.5%	5	13.5%	11	15.5%
Other Source	---	---	---	---	3	7.9%	5	13.5%	6	8.5%
Medical Provider ⁶	---	---	---	---	8	21.1%	11	29.7%	21	29.6%
HIV +	---	---	---	---	1	12.5%	2	18.2%	9	42.9%
HIV -	---	---	---	---	6	75.0%	6	54.6%	10	47.6%
Unknown	---	---	---	---	1	12.5%	3	27.3%	2	9.5%
Reports Anonymous Sex^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	14	56.0%	13	76.5%	32	69.6%
Reports Sex Work^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	1	3.0%	3	9.7%	2	3.3%
Reports Sex with Sex Worker^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	3	9.1%	3	9.4%	3	4.8%
HIV Status^{1,3}										
+	---	---	---	---	9	27.3%	9	32.1%	30	51.7%
-	---	---	---	---	24	72.7%	19	67.9%	28	48.3%
Unknown ²	---	---	---	---	5	13.2%	9	24.3%	12	17.1%
Drug Use^{1,3}										
Crack ³	---	---	---	---	7	18.4%	9	24.3%	23	32.9%
Heroin ³	---	---	---	---	1	14.3%	3	33.3%	2	8.7%
Cocaine ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%
Methamphetamines ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	2	22.2%	0	0.0%
	---	---	---	---	3	43.8%	4	44.4%	10	43.5%
Currently Incarcerated^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	1	4.8%	1	2.9%
Met Partners at Bathhouse^{3,4}	---	---	---	---	3	7.8%	9	24.3%	13	18.6%
Met Partners Online^{3,4}	---	---	---	---	5	13.2%	7	18.9%	7	10.0%
Condom Used at Last Sex^{1,3}	---	---	---	---	3	30.0%	2	20.0%	4	26.7%

¹ Calculated percent excludes Unknown.

² Calculated percent of total.

³ Data for 1999 not reliable.

⁴ Percentages are a minimum estimate since responses of "no" and "unknown" are indistinguishable during data collection

⁵ Data for San Francisco not available for the first half or second half of 1999

⁶ Included sources from private physicians, HMOs, inpatient hospitals, OB hospitals, emergency rooms, and student health services

Regional Analysis: Central California

(Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Tulare, Ventura)

Table 5 summarizes the P&S syphilis cases reported during half-year intervals from 1999 through the first half of 2001 in the Central California region. Ten P&S syphilis cases were reported during the first half of 2001. This is similar to the 11 cases reported in the first half of 2000 and represents a 50% decrease from the 20 cases reported in the same period in 1999. Of the 10 reported cases, 5 (50%) were male, 3 (30%) were 40 years of age or older, and all were reportedly heterosexual. Nine (90%) of these cases were non-White, similar to comparable time periods in 2000 (72.8%) and 1999 (80%).

P&S cases in the Central Region are more likely to be linked to commercial sex work compared to other California regions. In the first half of 2001, 37.5% of P&S syphilis cases reported sex work and 33% reported sex with a sex worker. Also in the first half of 2001, 50% of P&S cases reported illicit drug use, with crack (N=2) and methamphetamines (N=2) being the most frequently used.

STD clinic sites remain a primary locus for identifying P&S syphilis cases. Compared to other areas in the state where private medical doctors identify a majority of syphilis cases, in the Central Region, a larger proportion of cases are identified through STD clinical settings (30%).

Table 5: Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients Central Region by half-year intervals 1999-2001

Characteristic		1999 first half n (%) N=20		1999 second half n (%) N=18		2000 first half n (%) N=11		2000 second half n (%) N=15		2001 first half n (%) N=10	
Stage	Primary	8	40.0%	6	33.3%	6	54.5%	7	46.7%	4	40.0%
	Secondary	12	60.0%	12	66.7%	5	45.5%	8	53.3%	6	60.0%
Jurisdiction	Kern	10	50.0%	3	16.7%	2	18.2%	5	33.3%	4	40.0%
	Other Central (N=12)	10	50.0%	15	83.3%	9	81.8%	10	66.7%	6	60.0%
Gender	M	13	65.0%	13	72.2%	11	100.0%	12	80.0%	5	50.0%
	F	7	35.0%	5	27.8%	0	0.0%	3	20.0%	5	50.0%
Age	<20	1	5.0%	3	16.7%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	2	20.0%
	20-24	3	15.0%	2	11.1%	1	9.1%	1	6.7%	1	10.0%
	25-29	3	15.0%	4	22.2%	0	0.0%	2	13.3%	1	10.0%
	30-34	3	15.0%	4	22.2%	0	0.0%	2	13.3%	3	30.0%
	35-39	5	25.0%	2	11.1%	5	45.5%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%
	40-44	1	5.0%	2	11.1%	1	9.1%	4	26.7%	1	10.0%
	45-49	2	10.0%	1	5.6%	1	9.1%	2	13.3%	0	0.0%
	50+	2	10.0%	0	0.0%	2	18.2%	3	20.0%	2	20.0%
Race	White	4	20.0%	2	11.1%	3	27.3%	4	26.7%	1	10.0%
	Hispanic	11	55.0%	12	66.7%	5	45.5%	4	26.7%	6	60.0%
	African-American	5	25.0%	4	22.2%	3	27.3%	7	46.7%	2	20.0%
	Asian/Native American	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%
Sexual Orientation¹	Heterosexual Male	5	50.0%	3	37.5%	9	90.0%	9	64.3%	5	50.0%
	MSM	2	20.0%	2	25.0%	1	10.0%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%
	Heterosexual Female	3	30.0%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%	2	14.3%	5	50.0%
	WSW	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%
	Transgender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown ²	10	50.0%	10	55.5%	1	9.1%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%
Diagnosed at	STD Clinic	10	50.0%	7	38.9%	3	27.3%	8	53.3%	3	30.0%
	Correctional Facility	1	5.0%	1	5.6%	1	9.1%	3	20.0%	1	10.0%
	Family Planning	0	0%	0	0%	1	9.1%	1	6.7%	1	10.0%
	EIP/HIV Care Facilities	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Other Public Clinics	1	5.0%	2	1.1%	0	0%	1	6.7%	1	10.0%
	Other Source	2	10.0%	2	11.1%	1	9.1%	0	0%	1	10.0%
	Medical Provider ⁵	6	30.0%	6	33.3%	5	45.5%	2	13.3%	3	30.0%
	HIV +	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	HIV -	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	100%	3	100%
	Unknown	6	100%	6	100%	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Reports Anonymous Sex^{1,3}		---	---	---	---	1	50.0%	5	35.7%	4	40.0%
Reports Sex Work^{1,3}		---	---	---	---	2	40.0%	3	21.4%	3	37.5%
Reports Sex with Sex Worker^{1,3}		---	---	---	---	4	66.7%	7	50.0%	3	33.3%
HIV Status^{1,3}	+	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	-	---	---	---	---	5	100%	11	100%	7	100%
	Unknown ²	---	---	---	---	6	54.5%	4	26.7%	3	30.0%
Drug Use^{1,3}	Crack ³	---	---	---	---	3	27.3%	6	40.0%	5	50.0%
	Heroin ³	---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	6	100%	2	40.0%
	Cocaine ³	---	---	---	---	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Methamphetamines ³	---	---	---	---	2	66.7%	3	50.0%	1	20.0%
		---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	2	40.0%
Currently Incarcerated^{1,3}		---	---	---	---	1	11.1%	4	26.7%	1	10.0%
Met Partners at Bathhouse^{3,4}		---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Met Partners Online^{3,4}		---	---	---	---	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Condom Used at Last Sex^{1,3}		---	---	---	---	1	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

¹ Calculated percent excludes Unknown.

² Calculated percent of total.

³ Data for 1999 not reliable.

⁴ Percentages are a minimum estimate since responses of "no" and "unknown" are indistinguishable during data collection

⁵ Included sources from private physicians, HMOs, inpatient hospitals, OB hospitals, emergency rooms, and student health services

Regional Analysis: Southern California

(Imperial, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego)

Table 6 summarizes the P&S syphilis cases reported during half-year intervals from 1999 through the first half of 2001 in the Southern California region. Southern California had 128 cases during the first half of 2001, the most among all regions in California. Reported P&S cases in the first half of 2001 are up 7.5% from the first half of 2000 (N=119) and are up 60% from the first half of 1999 (N=80).

Nearly two-thirds (N=84) of cases occurred among non-White persons, 33 (30%) were 40 years of age or older, 111 (86.7%) were men. The high percentage of male P&S syphilis cases can be attributed to 60 (67.4%) cases being MSM among those reporting their sexual orientation. This follows a large outbreak of P&S syphilis among MSM in 2000 that resulted in over three times the MSM (N=66) cases reported in the first half of 2000 compared to the first half of 1999 (N=20). In the first half of 2001, 55.0% (N=33) of MSM cases in Southern California resided in Los Angeles.

Overall, 60.9% (N=78) of P&S syphilis cases in California were from Los Angeles. During the first half of 2001, 77.1% of cases in Los Angeles reported having anonymous sex partners, a proportion higher than the 52.5% reported for the rest of the Southern Region. Other risk factors reported by cases were meeting partners at bathhouses (9.0%), meeting partners over the internet (6.4%) and drug use (34.1%). Orange County contributed 24 (18.8%) P&S syphilis cases in Southern California.

Table 6: Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients Southern Region by half-year intervals 1999-2001

Characteristic		1999 first half n (%) N=80		1999 second half n (%) N=95		2000 first half n (%) N=119		2000 second half n (%) N=101		2001 first half n (%) N=128	
Stage	Primary	36	45.0%	32	33.7%	33	27.7%	28	27.7%	47	36.7%
	Secondary	44	55.0%	63	66.3%	86	72.3%	73	72.3%	81	63.3%
Jurisdiction	Los Angeles	46	57.5%	44	46.3%	77	64.7%	55	54.5%	78	60.9%
	Orange	18	22.5%	15	15.8%	12	10.1%	14	13.9%	24	18.8%
	San Diego	6	7.5%	19	20.0%	13	10.9%	14	13.9%	11	8.6%
	Long Beach	3	3.8%	8	8.4%	12	10.1%	7	6.9%	10	7.8%
	Other Southern (N=3)	7	8.8%	9	9.5%	5	4.2%	11	10.9%	5	3.9%
Gender	M	60	75.0%	68	71.6%	102	85.7%	84	83.2%	111	86.7%
	F	20	25.0%	27	28.4%	17	14.3%	17	16.8%	17	13.3%
Age	<20	2	2.5%	5	5.3%	2	1.7%	2	2.0%	8	6.3%
	20-24	8	10.0%	13	13.7%	10	8.4%	14	13.9%	16	12.5%
	25-29	16	20.0%	14	14.7%	16	13.4%	11	10.9%	24	18.8%
	30-34	17	21.3%	21	22.1%	28	23.5%	21	20.8%	24	18.8%
	35-39	12	15.0%	15	15.8%	28	23.5%	23	22.8%	21	16.4%
	40-44	10	12.5%	8	8.4%	16	13.4%	11	10.9%	13	11.8%
	45-49	10	12.5%	11	11.6%	11	9.2%	9	8.9%	14	12.7%
	50+	5	6.3%	8	8.4%	8	6.7%	10	9.9%	6	5.5%
Race	White	23	29.1%	17	18.5%	42	35.9%	41	41.0%	44	34.4%
	Hispanic	33	41.8%	44	47.8%	44	37.6%	40	40.0%	52	40.6%
	African-American	22	27.8%	27	29.3%	28	23.9%	17	17.0%	27	21.1%
	Asian/Native American	1	1.3%	4	4.3%	3	2.6%	2	2.0%	5	3.9%
Sexual Orientation^{1,4}	Heterosexual Male	26	43.3%	31	41.9%	23	21.9%	24	27.0%	19	21.3%
	MSM	20	33.3%	21	28.4%	66	62.9%	50	56.2%	60	67.4%
	Heterosexual Female	13	21.7%	20	27.0%	13	12.4%	11	12.4%	9	10.1%
	WSW	1	1.7%	1	1.4%	0	0.0%	2	2.2%	1	1.1%
	Transgender	0	0.0%	1	1.4%	3	2.9%	2	2.2%	0	0.0%
	Unknown ²	20	25.0%	21	22.1%	14	11.8%	12	11.9%	39	30.5%
Diagnosed at	STD Clinic	---	---	---	---	16	13.5%	20	19.8%	21	19.1%
	Correctional Facility	---	---	---	---	5	4.2%	5	5.0%	8	7.3%
	Family Planning	---	---	---	---	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	EIP/HIV Care Facilities	---	---	---	---	19	16.0%	6	5.9%	20	18.2%
	Other Public Clinics	---	---	---	---	7	5.9%	8	7.9%	1	0.9%
	Other Source	---	---	---	---	10	8.4%	6	5.9%	4	3.6%
	Medical Provider ⁶	---	---	---	---	62	52.1%	56	55.5%	56	50.9%
	HIV +	---	---	---	---	15	24.2%	13	23.2%	20	35.7%
	HIV -	---	---	---	---	25	40.3%	32	57.1%	21	37.5%
	Unknown	---	---	---	---	22	35.5%	11	19.6%	15	26.8%
Reports Anonymous Sex^{1,4}		---	---	---	---	42	56.8%	38	63.3%	48	64.0%
Reports Sex Work^{1,4}		---	---	---	---	3	5.4%	8	12.1%	8	9.9%
Reports Sex with Sex Worker^{1,4}		---	---	---	---	13	21.7%	13	20.3%	11	13.6%
HIV Status^{1,3,4}										0	
	+	---	---	---	---	40	0.0%	24	0.0%	34	47.2%
	-	---	---	---	---	43	100%	51	100%	38	52.8%
Unknown ²		---	---	---	---	36	30.3%	26	25.7%	17	13.3%
Drug Use^{1,3,4}		---	---	---	---	26	35.1%	24	40.0%	26	30.6%
	Crack ³	---	---	---	---	5	19.2%	4	16.7%	5	19.2%
	Heroin ³	---	---	---	---	1	3.8%	2	8.3%	1	3.8%
	Cocaine ³	---	---	---	---	8	30.8%	4	16.7%	10	38.5%
	Methamphetamines ³	---	---	---	---	13	50.0%	10	41.7%	8	30.8%
Currently Incarcerated^{1,3,4}		---	---	---	---	6	5.6%	5	6.1%	8	9.3%
Met Partners at Bathhouse^{3,4,5}		---	---	---	---	17	14.3%	6	5.9%	10	7.8%
Met Partners Online^{3,4,5}		---	---	---	---	4	3.4%	3	3.0%	8	6.3%
Condom Used at Last Sex^{1,3,4}		---	---	---	---	19	31.2%	15	24.6%	17	22.1%

¹ Calculated percent excludes Unknown.

² Calculated percent of total.

³ Data for 1999 not reliable

⁴ Risk factor data for LA County not available for N=25 for the first half of 2001

⁵ Percentages are a minimum estimate since responses of "no" and "unknown" are indistinguishable during data collection

⁶ Included sources from private physicians, HMOs, inpatient hospitals, OB hospitals, emergency rooms, and student health services